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is practically independent, for one's time is one's own, in a measure, and unless there is a "rush" it is nearly always possible to keep a day or part of a day free, by "doubling up" and working harder the next day. One of the greatest advantages is no night work or, at most, only an occasional night on duty. Then, too, one meets many delightful people in the course of the day, for you know that it is possible for anyone to be agreeable for an hour or two, and thus the hourly nurse escapes much that is unpleasant that sometimes falls to the lot of the poor nurse who is on duty for twenty-four hours. But do not imagine for one moment that hourly nursing has no drawbacks, for it has countless ones and if one thinks that by taking up this work, she is on an easy-going, get-rich-quick road, she will be greatly disappointed, for it is not possible to make more than a good, fair average income. There may be one or two record-breaking days, when you feel that the world is yours, followed by as many forced rest days while expenses go on without intermission. Car-fare, too, is an important item. A dollar dwindles to very small proportions after a busy day. Then, too, there is the wear and tear of travelling about the city, on foot much of the time, or on street cars, which is not unattended by danger both to life and limb, and I would strongly urge all nurses who intend to enter this interesting field of labor to take out accident insurance to protect against a rainy day. I would also suggest that they have some special work with which they are familiar, such as chiropody, massage, or something extra, to help out, when calls are few and far between.

THE ENFORCEMENT OF THE LAW *

By MARY B. EYRE, R.N.

Secretary of the State Board of Examiners of Colorado

THE Colorado law is obligatory, and strange to relate I can say with truth that that law has been enforced. It is really rather a surprise to me in looking over the five years that I have experienced in trying to enforce it, that the thing has been done, namely, that every nurse who claims to be trained or a graduate must have a license in order to practise in the state of Colorado. Those states that have compulsory registration have rather a different matter to face than those where registration is

* Abridged from the stenographer's notes of the Joint Session on State Registration of the American Nurses' Association and the Superintendents' Society, Chicago, June, 1912.

optional. It seems to me that to be the secretary of a board where there is optional registration would be the greatest bliss. I cannot imagine anything more pleasant than to sit in an office and have people come in and ask to be registered. We have to go out to them and oblige them to be registered, which makes it rather hard, but we feel that the advantages gained are great. I am going to tell briefly how it can be done as a practical matter.

The first step is to get in touch with every nurse who comes into the state, to find out whether she intends to practise as a graduate; because, mind you, she may be a nurse and may come to Colorado on her summer vacation, and unless we can prove that she is practising her profession as a graduate nurse the law cannot oblige her to be licensed. That is a matter that devolves upon the board to find out as soon as a nurse comes across the state limits. We must find out whether she is a graduate, whether she intends to practise as a graduate, whether she comes from a standard training school, whether she is eligible for registration with or without examination, in what year she was graduated, and all the data. That, together with her present address, is put down in a little red memorandum book and then there is a pause. That young woman must send her application blanks back to the school where she was trained, she must have a blank which we have the superintendent of the training school fill out in lieu of the diploma, because there has been a forged diploma presented to the Colorado board and, therefore, the board has felt a little shaky about diplomas ever since. The nurse must have two vouchers, who are graduates in good standing, to sign for her, etc. I will not give all the details, but suffice it to say that it takes some time to hear from her. After a lapse of time, if not heard from, she is sent a notice which runs:

DEAR MADAM: Application blanks and copy of the state law requiring all who practise in Colorado as trained or graduate nurses to hold a license from this board were sent you on such and such a date. Since then nothing has been heard from you. Kindly file your application or cease practising as a trained or graduate nurse in Colorado. An answer to this letter stating your intentions is requested.

(Signed) Secretary.

There follows another pause, and if a reply does not come in, a letter threatening prosecution is sent. The attitude of mind is shown by the replies to the first letter, that is, the letter that tells them to hurry and register. An application which has been tardy comes in, or perhaps the nurse will write and say, "You do not seem to know that I left

Colorado several weeks ago." The secretary had a letter from one young woman saying, "If you would use your gray matter more you would know that I have been in Salt Lake City for the last three weeks." The only addresses that are left with us are the temporary addresses of these birds of passage, nurses coming to Colorado for the sake of the climate. They get there and do not like the climate and go on to California, where the climate, I am told, is always delightful. The nurses also sometimes go back. At any rate there are a great number of nurses who come and tarry but a very little while and then go on and are very much surprised that we try to hunt them up by hook and crook, by registered letter and telephone messages to places where we still think they are,—where they were when we last heard. Very often a nurse will send word that she is a practical nurse and the law of Colorado does not bother a practical nurse. It does not interfere with the nurse as long as she does not try to sail under false colors.

The term delinquents signifies those to whom more than one notice to register has been sent. Lists of delinquents from April, 1911, to April, 1912, 117. Of those, 39 applications have been received. Those were the tardy ones who hastened to come in. Those who have left Colorado, 37; pupils who have given up training or not yet been graduated, 19; practical nurses, 10; not nursing, 6; letters returned not heard from, 6.

The question in the minds of a great many people is how we get the names of nurses who come into the state. That is not so difficult as one might think, because there are, in the first place, 1244 nurses who have been registered in Colorado, and of these a large percentage are still in Colorado and are very loyal about seeing that our law is upheld. They write the board letters saying, "So and so has come. Do you know about her?" Then the secretary is instructed and sends application blanks.

There is also quite a large number of nurses who report others from the very human motive of itching to see everybody get into the same discipline that they themselves have to submit to. Very often nurses who have been delinquent and have held out, when they once come in and are converted, make the most zealous people in getting others. They feel, "Now I myself have been haled into the registration willy nilly and I will see that everybody else gets into the same trouble."

The attitude of the doctors used to be, for quite a long time, one of rather amused indifference; but every year the doctors are getting more and more helpful, I think probably from their kindness of heart and also because the superintendents of training schools have been

urgently requested only to admit as special nurses those who are registered or whose registration is pending. When a doctor finds that he cannot take a nurse into a hospital on his special case, that makes him pay a little more attention to registration work, so that the superintendents of nurses who uphold the board's work and the registration act have helped us very much with the medical fraternity, and the medical fraternity have helped of their own interest and kindness.

The registrars of local directories have also been very helpful. There are several in Colorado and they send word always, when a nurse applies to the directory if there is any doubt about her having been registered with the State Board of Nurse Examiners. Advertisements are carefully watched in the papers, and it is remarkable to see how greatly the number of nurses who apply for work through the papers has lessened. There used to be a great number and now there are—well, perhaps several Sundays will pass without there being more than one or two. Pupil nurses from training schools are kept track of and are notified about the time they are to graduate and are sent application blanks.

In all these ways we manage to keep track of the nurses who come into the state. In spite of it, in spite of all the outposts and the vigilant upholders of the law, in Denver, in the capital city, under the very nose of the secretary, nurses sometimes get a case without a license.

We cannot say that every nurse in Colorado is registered. We can say truthfully that the few who come and nurse without having a license are becoming fewer and fewer each year. Because these cases come to the notice of the board, we know that they exist, but almost every one is brought, by one of the means that I have spoken of, to the board's attention sooner or later.

The little towns are a very difficult problem. Distances are very great and it is tremendously difficult for the board members to get to all the towns and give the close personal supervision that is necessary. It means visiting, it means personal touch with the superintendents of schools and with the doctors of the little towns, and finding out and trying to keep track of them. Nurses slip in and slip out and sometimes will be there for quite a length of time without anyone's hearing of them. It means going to the local druggist, going to the doctors, going to the hotel clerk, getting lists of all women who are nurses, either practical or claiming to be graduate nurses. It means hunting up directories, hunting up telephone directories and then interviewing personally all these nurses. It means sometimes long trips out into the country.

A great number claim to be trained who have had, perhaps, one or two years' training in some of the schools, but the law interprets the

word "trained" as synonymous with "graduate" or "registered," *e.g.*, a graduate, trained or registered nurse. When it is pointed out to these young women who have had a little training, that they must not call themselves trained unless they are graduate nurses, they almost always cease. That is enough for them.

The board in the early days employed its own lawyer, but we found that there were many threatening letters to be written and many points to be taken up, so that the board was unable to employ its own lawyer and pay him, as well as defray the other expenses from the fees. A large fee would seem to be necessary with the compulsory law. In order to carry out the provisions of the law one must have the sinews of war, as it were, in the shape of funds.

Later the Colorado board was informed that it must have the state attorney-general as counsel; and as the law by now has become pretty well established and there are fewer threatening epistles to be written, we find that the attorney-general's office gives us very good backing and all that is necessary. Sometimes nurses try to bring pressure, both medical, legal, and political, in order to have the board grant them licenses. In every case in which that has been done, where the board has refused a license and pressure has been brought to bear, the board has been upheld. It has felt that it was right, that it was protecting the public, and in every instance, so far, it has been able to abide by its decision and withhold a license. In one instance the governor of the state admonished the board and expostulated with the board but the attitude has been, and it seems to work very well, that the board has a duty of protection to the public as well as to the individual nurse, and that by withholding such and such a license the public is protected. That has served to silence so far every adverse criticism.

The Colorado board has never had a lawsuit. It has been rather anxious to have a good lawsuit, because a suit well won would minimize immensely the work of the board in hunting up the delinquents. It would further the operation of the registration act enormously. But so far, at the eleventh hour, every dilatory person has come in and complied. We have never had one who absolutely refused, although it has been sometimes on the very brink of prosecution.

In case of pressing a prosecution I think it would rest always with the district attorney. The state does not institute the prosecution. That is, the board for the state collects the evidence and presents such evidence to the district attorney who has jurisdiction over the district in which the nurse has violated the law. Then it goes to trial by jury, and in trial by jury the evidence must be convinc-

ing; so that the board has been warned that we must be careful not to prosecute unless the evidence is very full, explicit, and definite. If any of you have ever tried to collect evidence you will know just what that means. It means going to Mrs. So-and-So and saying, "You had a nurse, Miss B., on your case. Did she take care of your husband as a trained or graduate nurse?" And the lady will say: "Why, bless me, I don't know. We supposed she was a trained nurse. We paid her twenty-five dollars a week. I couldn't be positive now that she claimed to be, but we supposed she was. Yes, I think she said she was." "Would you be willing to sign a written statement to that effect?" "Oh, no, indeed, I wouldn't sign a written statement." And of course one understands how these people feel. You and I would not be willing to sign a written statement damaging a person's character or affecting her livelihood. So I wish to warn the members of the boards that that is where the danger lies in prosecution. The district attorney is going to look out for the pocketbook of his district and he is not going to bring a case that he is apt to lose. Also, on a higher ground than that, the state attorney has cautioned the board that it must not try to punish by prosecution, that the object is, in one sense, to make the law a pioneer in educating the people and in teaching them what trained nursing means, what registration means; and for that reason we are trying to avoid it.

In regard to the advantages of the registration law, I was formerly not so enthusiastic about the law as I am now. I could not see exactly, when I was first registered, what the active people who were getting it up found so beneficial, but under our own experience the advantages have been the exposing of practical nurses, nurses who sail under false colors, who get out and put on a cap and uniform and pass themselves off as graduate nurses, who when they were obliged to show their credentials, could not. I knew a number of such women who, when compulsory registration went into effect, could not face the music and preferred to leave the state. The correspondence schools, of mushroom growth, one of which we had in Colorado, have been put out of existence, I am happy to say, we hope by registration. Four little hospitals that had inadequate training schools have been obliged to give them up. Their nurses could not pass the state examinations. Four hospitals in Denver have installed teachers (of these, three had the matron instructor of nurses), in order to equip their pupil nurses to pass the state examination. Two schools where pupils came and failed to pass have changed superintendents in order to give their pupils better instruction. Hospitals have been obliged to take this stand because, disregarding the pride, if the training school graduate cannot get a license

and, therefore, cannot practise her profession, it forces that school either to raise its standard or go begging for applicants. The law has raised the standard as the minimum measure for hospitals and the hospital has improved the training for the nurses in order to get its work done rather than abolish the school.

The personal and professional standing of every nurse who comes into the state is looked up, and the personal and professional standing of her vouchers and of her hospital. I wish to thank most cordially the secretaries and the superintendents of hospitals and the secretaries of other states who have helped us in enforcing our law by answering these letters. I have a very lively notion of what trouble it is to a very busy superintendent to answer the letters, but her doing so has meant helping to enforce the registration law.

VISITING OBSTETRICAL SERVICE IN MANILA

BY CONSUELO GLORIA

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VISITING obstetrical nursing was introduced in Manila in April, 1910, by the College of Medicine and Surgery, University of the Philippines, through the initiative of Dr. William E. Musgrave, for the benefit of the poor women, who were dying, because of the practices of ignorant midwives; for the decrease in infant mortality, which is greater in Manila than any other city of the world; and for the purpose of furnishing material for the proper education of students of medicine and of nursing.

This service is considered to be one of the important undertakings of the American Government in the Philippines and as a result of its work more women have been confined in hospitals than during the preceding three centuries of Spanish rule. Most of the Filipino people have the midwifery customs and spirit, and when we consider the methods of these women it is surprising that the custom has been allowed to continue. However, in spite of the crude and dirty method of these midwives, the poorer classes of women in the Philippines having always been attended in their confinement by them, cling to their old customs, and can rarely be persuaded to accept the services of an educated and experienced obstetrical nurse in her stead. On one occasion, shortly after the visiting obstetrical department was started, we were called by a patient's neighbor to assist a very bad case of placenta prævia, in which the woman was bleeding profusely. The patient was alone, lying on the